

# the Gateway

The Gateway to Europe

Vol. 61, No. 21, Oct. 24, 2003, Rhein-Main AB, Germany

## News Briefs

### Influenza shots

Following is a schedule of when and where influenza shots will be given:

- Community Connections Oct. 27 and 30 from 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- Base fire department Oct. 27 from 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.
- Bldg. 352 Oct. 28 from 6:30 - 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
- 64th Replacement Company Oct. 28 from 9:30 - 11 a.m.
- AFN Oct. 29 from 5 - 8 p.m.
- 726th Air Mobility Squadron Oct. 29 and Oct. 30 from 5 - 8 p.m.

The shots are available for active duty military personnel and high-risk civilians (those older than 65, people with diabetes, etc.)

For more information, call 330-4243.

### Trick or Treat hours

Trick or treating takes place in Gateway Gardens from 6 - 8 p.m. Oct. 31.

### Pumpkin patrol

Rhein-Main is looking for volunteers to assist with Halloween Night.

The community needs to have people out in full force to walk around Gateway Gardens ensuring a safe night for the children of Rhein-Main.

Anyone who has questions or would like to volunteer should call 330-7542.



Photo By Staff Sgt. Matt Summers

### Roll out the barrel

*Hundreds of military and family members enjoyed German music, food and beer during the 2003 Rhein-Main Oktoberfest Oct. 17 in the shoppette parking lot. The 469th Air Base Group Services Flight also provided games for the children. The music was performed by Orchesterverein Schwanheim.*

## ‘Heroes’ revealed in programs

By 1st Lt. Elizabeth Apteka  
USAFE Public Affairs

Many military, civilian and family members make a difference throughout U.S. Air Forces in Europe and host nation communities daily, and now a new program will unveil their efforts.

Hidden Heroes, an initiative recently introduced by Gen. Robert H. “Doc” Foglesong, USAFE commander, puts the spotlight on volunteers and the difference their efforts make for everyone in the command.

“We call them Hidden Heroes because most of these people don’t want any notoriety, they don’t do it for any other reason than because it’s a good

thing to do – helping somebody makes them feel good about themselves,” he said. “So we’re searching out those people who are doing that and honoring them with this program.”

The program is one of 11 combat and special interest initiatives intended to boost volunteer and resource management programs already in place.

Foglesong, a strong advocate for volunteerism, created the Hidden Heroes program to recognize the contribution volunteers make to USAFE communities by bringing these unsung heroes to center stage in public awareness.

“It’s one of my favorite programs,” Foglesong said. “It’s an opportunity to

See *Heroes*, Page 4

# What my uniform means

By Airman 1st Class

Christopher Kobernuss

97th Logistics Readiness Squadron

## ALTUS AIR FORCE BASE, Okla.

— On the way from my home in Ohio to San Antonio where I was about to begin basic training, I kept looking out the window thinking to myself, "I'm really doing this. My family will be so proud. My wife and daughter can sleep easy knowing that I will protect them."

As my flight landed, a little boy behind me was looking out the window. He turned to his mother and asked where the bombs were. His mother told him there were no bombs on this kind of plane. Then he asked, "Who's going to protect us if there's no bombs?" His mom said, "Honey, there's somebody out there to protect us."

That made me realize that my family wasn't the only family relying on me for protection. I have a much bigger family now.

My uniform means protection. My uniform means people will not have to wonder who will keep them safe. My uniform means our families will not have to worry about suicide car bombings or guerilla attacks in our streets.

My uniform means freedom. My uniform means servicemembers before me gave me the freedom to choose. My uniform means it's my turn to ensure people after me have that same freedom.

My uniform means honor.

My family and I were visiting Sea World at the end of basic training. A woman came up to me and grabbed my arm. She said, "Don't think I'm crazy but I want to thank you for what you're doing. You have no idea what this means to me. I really appreciate what you're doing for our country." Then she thanked me again and shook my hand.

My uniform means pride. How many people wake up in the morning and know they are a part of the greatest force in the world? How many of them put on their uniform and know everybody in the world is watching them?

I know there is no uniform that attracts attention as much as mine does. This is the last uniform I'll ever wear. I know every time I put on my uniform I will look sharp and professional.

My uniform means courage. When the time comes and it's my turn, I'll be able to take the training I've received and perform in a hostile environment. I'll put on my uniform and know it means I'll be able to help people who can't help themselves.

When I put my uniform on, it means I'm willing to get in harm's way and protect what I believe in.

When I put on this uniform, it means my wingman can trust me with his or her life, and I will trust him with mine.

(Courtesy of Air Education and Training Command News Service)

Commander's Action Line

The Action Line is one way for me to keep my finger on the pulse of the Rhein-Main community and is used as an avenue for communication.

The main objective of the Commander's Action Line is finding solutions to problems or providing explanations for processes.

If you experience problems at Rhein-Main, you should always try to resolve problems at the lowest level by contacting the unit or agency managers. In almost every case, your chain of command is the best solution. I strongly encourage everyone to use that route first. When normal channels haven't been able to resolve your issues, feel free to send an e-mail to [Hotline@rheinmain.af.mil](mailto:Hotline@rheinmain.af.mil) or call 330-7779. Please include your name and contact information along with your concern.

Action Lines are forwarded to the appropriate agency for action and response. They should contact you within 24 hours. Once an Action Line is started, the agency must provide a complete answer to me within 10 days.

The 469th Air Base Group Public Affairs Office is responsible for managing the Action Line program on my behalf.

If you have any questions, call the 469th ABG/PA office at 330-7804 or e-mail at [Hotline@rheinmain.af.mil](mailto:Hotline@rheinmain.af.mil).

Col. Bradley Denison  
Commander, 469th Air Base Group

330-7779



## "Fall Back"

The change from Daylight Savings Time to Standard Time takes place at 3 a.m. Sunday. Don't forget to set clocks back one hour.



the  
**Gateway**

### Editorial Staff

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by deadline does not guarantee publication, however, all articles will be considered. The staff may be reached by calling 330-7804. All photos are property of the U.S. Air Force unless otherwise noted.

The deadline for the Nov. 7  
edition of *the Gateway* is  
4 p.m., Oct. 30.

## Breaking free

*Airman 1st Class Eric Watkins, 469th Air Base Group fire department, uses the "jaws of life" on a vehicle in front of the base exchange Oct. 9. Watkins was performing an extrication demonstration for the public in order to spread the word about safety as part of Fire Prevention Week.*



Photo By Second Lt. Uriah Orland

## Pitch in

### Fall cleanup to help instill sense of pride in main base, housing area

**By Tech. Sgt. Don Anderson**  
Civil Engineer Flight

It's that time of year again – the summer has come to an end and the leaves have started to fall. This can only mean one thing; it's time for the Rhein-Main Community to conduct its fall cleanup, which takes place Nov. 4-6, to prepare the installation for the winter months.

In order to do this, the community calls upon the senior leadership, facility managers, housing building coordinators and the base populace to assist in this enormous undertaking.

While Rhein-Main employs a contractor to conduct this type of work, the entire community must also do its part in order to fully prepare the area.

Here are a few things to expect during the fall clean up.

On Nov. 4, main operating base facility managers need to organize work parties to pickup trash, leaves and debris around facility perimeters. Garbage around and behind dumpsters and trash receptacles must also be cleaned up. People should pay attention to areas that may be overlooked on a daily basis.

Anyone who needs lawn and garden

supplies, such as shovels, rakes, push brooms and trash bags can stop by the Civil Engineer Flight Self-Help Store in Hangar 84 from 7:30 a.m. - noon and 1 - 3:30 p.m. prior to Nov. 4.

People who are cleaning should inspect the exterior of facilities for areas they are unable to fix. In such instances, an Air Force Form 332 should be submitted to Bldg. 49, CE service call. If a safety hazard exists, people should call CE at 330-7789 to submit an emergency job order. Make sure to write down the tracking number that is given. This number will help aid in following up on the work.

On Nov. 6, the focus changes to Gateway Gardens. Building managers and stairwell coordinators should get their stairwell residents to police the area, within 50 feet of their facilities.

Leaves should be raked, carports swept and dumpster enclosures should be cleaned. All patios and gazebos should be cleaned, and abandoned barbecue pits should be removed. Bulk trash pickup is scheduled for Nov. 5.

Those who are unable to drag the items to the curb for the scheduled pickup can use bulk trash containers that Pacific Architect and Engineers will have pre-positi-

tioned at the shoppette parking lot.

When setting out bulk trash, pay attention not to include any household hazardous material.

Anyone with questions as to what may be hazardous materials should contact the base environmental office at 330-7844. An environmental representative will also be located at the shoppette parking lot from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. to answer questions and accept some items.

To help Gateway Gardens, Pacific Architects and Engineers has ordered flowers and shrubs for the drive entrances to each of the facility units. Building managers will be responsible for picking up the flowers at the shoppette parking lot and ensuring they are planted in the identified place.

It is the responsibilities of housing residents to maintain the plants. The PAE Self-Help store will have an individual at the shoppette parking lot to sign out tools and supplies mentioned above.

Anyone with questions on the fall cleanup can call extension 330-6383.

It takes everyone's effort to make this happen, so lets get out there and put forth some pride in Rhein-Main and make it a better place to live and work.



## Warriors of the Week



**Staff Sgt. Larry Bright**

**Unit:** Comm

**Time in service:** Nine years, one at Rhein-Main

**Duty Title:** NCOIC of plans and implementation

**Hometown:** Topeka, Kan.

**Hobbies:** Working on cars

**What has been your best AF experience?**

Visiting the Utah Test and Training Range



**Staff Sgt. Jamal Rahmon**

**Unit:** Comm

**Time in service:** Ten years, one at Rhein-Main

**Duty Title:** Assistant Post Master

**Hometown:** Cleveland

**Hobbies:** Sports and traveling

**What has been your best AF experience?**

Living in Germany

## Heroes, from Page 1

recognize people who organize and contribute to help better the lives, voluntarily, across the spectrum for others.”

Bases are asked to place new emphasis on volunteer programs already in existence and to make plans to explore new ways of meeting the goals of the program, said Janie Illing, USAFE Family Matters Hidden Heroes action officer.

“In addition to recognizing those who willingly give their time and talents to base organizations, Hidden Heroes seeks to increase the number of volunteer opportunities available and recruit more volunteers to fill those new positions,” she said.

Illing said the program will bring comprehensiveness and standardization to the current management of volunteer programs.

“The success of the Hidden Heroes program at each base will be measured by capturing data on three metrics: an increased number of volunteer opportunities available, an increased number of volunteers on base and an increased number of volunteer hours worked,” she said.

A designated representative will implement the program at each unit and report data to the base point of contact.

Previously, volunteers were recognized in a variety of ways

## What it means to Rhein-Main

The biggest change the Hidden Heroes program will bring to Rhein-Main is a centralized list of volunteer opportunities on base, according to Greg Cowan, Rhein-Main Hidden Heroes POC.

Cowan said he hopes to have the centralized list with points of contact for each organization looking for volunteers completed by the end of the year.

For more information about Hidden Heroes, call 330-7992.

depending on the base. In the new program, volunteers will be recognized in special recognition ceremonies, with distinctive coins and certificates in a more timely manner, she said.

“There are hidden heroes in our midst. All we have to do is look around and take the time to notice the quiet contributions volunteers make each day,” Illing said. “If everyone engages with the spirit of this new initiative, all of our bases will be on their way to success.”

# Rhein-Main blotter

compiled by Staff Sgt. Patrick Gaudet



**Oct. 4** – The 6th ASG Military Police Station telephoned the Security Forces Control Center relaying an noncommissioned officer assigned to the 469th Air Base Group had been apprehended by the Munich Polizei for assault. MP's transported the individual to the Garmisch MP Station for further processing. The individual was later released to his chain of command.

**Oct. 5** – An I.H.S. Security Guard telephoned the SFCC relaying an airman assigned to the 726th Air Mobility Squadron was being uncooperative during a routine vehicle inspection. While departing the

gate, the airman displayed her middle finger in a cruel manner to one of the German military members. Security Forces patrols made contact with the airman at Bldg. 166. They detained her and transported her back to the SFCC for further processing. The individual was later released to her first sergeant.

**Oct. 6** – A retired officer entered the SFCC relaying while traveling in Lisbon, Portugal, he had been pick pocketed. The individual relayed that his military identification card had been stolen and he could not provide any leads, suspects or witnesses. The individual was in-

structed to report to the orderly room and was issued a new ID card.

**Oct. 15** -- A civilian employee of the Army and Air Forces Exchange Services telephoned the SFCC relaying she had detained a civilian dependant for shoplifting. Security Forces patrols responded to the BX and escorted the dependant back to the SFCC for further processing. AAFES detectives relayed the individual proceeded to the customer service desk with two items she had picked up in the store and presented the items as a previous purchase with a receipt dated Oct. 13, trying to refund the items.

## Air Force releases fitness standards

By 2nd Lt. Uriah Orland  
Public Affairs

**WASHINGTON** — Air Force leaders recently released the fitness-scoring charts that will be used beginning Jan. 1.

"The amount of energy we devote to our fitness programs is not consistent with the growing demands of our warrior culture. It's time to change that," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper in a Sight Picture released in July, explaining the rationale behind the change.

Officials said the fitness score will include four components: crunches, push-ups, an abdominal circumference measurement and the 1.5-mile timed run.

People who are not medically cleared to run will continue to take the bike test. The component scores are then added to

get a composite fitness score and determine if the person falls into the excellent, good, marginal or poor category.

The charts are available online at [www.af.mil/news/USAF\\_Fitness\\_Charts.pdf](http://www.af.mil/news/USAF_Fitness_Charts.pdf).

Fitness categories will determine how often a person must retest. For instance, a composite score of 70 to 74.9 places the person in the marginally fit category.

This designation requires retesting at six-month intervals. A score of less than 70 places a person in the poorly fit category. That score requires a retest every three months. People at the marginal and poor levels also will participate in educational programs.

Air Force leaders encourage commanders to recognize people who attain an excellent fitness level or make substantial

improvement.

"The focus of the new fitness program is not the assessment. The program is about integrating fitness into our culture, and our members adopting fitness as a way of life," said Maj. Lisa Schmidt, the Air Force Surgeon General chief of health promotion operations.

Officials are finalizing the instruction related to the program and plan to publish it by January. It will address unit physical training, testing procedures and programs to facilitate improvement, they said. The Air Force has established an e-mail account for comments at [fitness.program@pentagon.af.mil](mailto:fitness.program@pentagon.af.mil).

Officials emphasized that the Air Force fitness program will be reviewed annually for continuous improvement. (Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

## Clinic-Phone Survey

The Rhein-Main Clinic was selected to participate in a telephone survey to obtain timely feedback from patients about their visits. An authorized individual will contact patients who visited the clinic and ask them questions about their appointment. The contractor will ask six questions

and contact patients between the hours of 5 and 8 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Feedback will enable the clinic leadership to assess the service and care they provide.

The contractor does not have access to any personal medical information. This program will last six months.

The clinic staff encourages people to participate in this program. (Courtesy of base clinic)

# DoD begins on-line voting demo

## 375 days left until 2004 General Election; several states to hold primaries

The Federal Voting Assistance Program, in conjunction with several states and counties, has begun conducting a large Internet registration and voting demonstration for the 2004 election.

This Congressionally mandated project is called SERVE, which stands for Secure Electronic Registration and Voting Experiment.

Thousands of absentee uniformed services personnel, their dependents, and overseas U.S. citizens will have the opportunity to register to vote and cast their ballots from any Windows-based computer with Internet access, anywhere in the world.

County election officials will use the SERVE system to receive voter registration applications, provide ballots to voters, and accept voted ballots. These officials will use their existing election administration systems to process registrations and ballots.

"Security is everyone's first question

about Internet voting, so we made security the driving factor in the SERVE system design," said FVAP Director Polli Brunelli. "We are working closely with state and local election officials to ensure that the integrity of the electoral process is maintained."

States currently expected to participate in SERVE are **Arkansas, Florida, Hawaii, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah and Washington.**



The SERVE project is the latest in a series of technology initiatives undertaken by FVAP as part of its mission to improve access to the polls for uniformed services personnel and overseas American citizens.

Brunelli said that all eligible absentee uniformed services personnel

and U.S. citizens overseas are encouraged to use SERVE to register and vote in 2004 by logging on to

**[www.SERVEUSA.gov](http://www.SERVEUSA.gov).**

The Federal Voting Assistance Program is an element of the Department of Defense. Additional information on FVAP is available at **[www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)**.

*(Information courtesy of FVAP)*

## Priming for the big one

Most states and territories hold primary elections before general elections take place in November.

Winners of primary elections run against nominees of other parties in the general election.

Following are the dates for presidential primaries in the states which hold them:

- Alabama	June 1
- Arizona	Feb. 3
- Arkansas	May 18
- California	Mar. 2
- Connecticut	Mar. 2
- Delaware	Feb. 3
- D.C.	Jan. 13
- Florida	Mar. 9
- Georgia	Mar. 2
- Idaho	May 25
- Illinois	Mar. 16
- Indiana	May 4
- Kentucky	May 18
- Louisiana	Mar. 9
- Maryland	Mar. 2
- Massachusetts	Mar. 2
- Mississippi	Mar. 9
- Missouri	Feb. 3
- Montana	June 8
- Nebraska	May 11
- Nevada	Sept. 7
- New Hampshire	Jan. 27
- New Jersey	June 8
- New Mexico	June 1
- New York	Mar. 2
- North Carolina	May 4
- Ohio	Mar. 2
- Oklahoma	Feb. 3
- Oregon	May 18
- Pennsylvania	Apr. 27
- Puerto Rico	TBD
- Rhode Island	Mar. 2
- South Carolina	Feb. 3
- South Dakota	June 1
- Tennessee	Feb. 10
- Texas	Mar. 2
- Utah	Feb. 27
- Vermont	Mar. 2
- Virginia	Feb. 10
- Washington	Mar. 2
- West Virginia	May 11
- Wisconsin	Feb. 17

## Voting the old-fashioned way

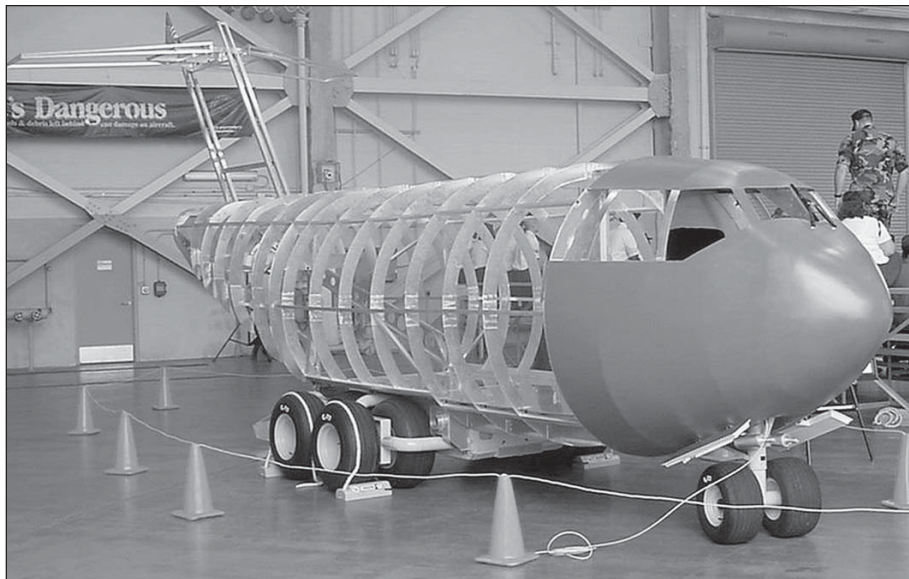
For residents of states not eligible for the SERVE program, there remains the Federal Post Card Application, also known as Standard Form 76. (SF 76)

It's a postage-free postcard, printed and distributed by the FVAP for use by absentee voters covered by Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

In order to register, and/or vote absentee, an eligible U.S. citizen must carefully, and accurately, complete an FPCA. Because of varying state and territorial procedures, citizens must refer to the appropriate state or territorial section of the 2004-05 Voting Assistance Guide, available at **[www.fvap.gov/pubs/vag/vagintro.html](http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/vag/vagintro.html)** to determine how they must complete the FPCA. Click on Chapter 3 to see your state's requirements. Currently, American Samoa, Guam and Ohio accept on-line versions of the FPCA.

For more information on the Voting Assistance Program, call 330-7992.





Courtesy photo

## When I grow up

*Volunteers from the 315th and 437th airlift wings at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., are building a small-scale replica of a C-17A Globemaster III. When completed, the replica will be used as a recruiting tool at air shows, schools, parades and other community events.*

# Enlisted promotions require time, effort

*2004 testing dates begin in January, run through May*

**By Master Sgt. Randy Mitchell**  
AFPC Public Affairs

## AIR FORCE PERSONNEL

**CENTER** – There are many things airmen can do to affect their chances for promotion, but perhaps the most important is taking the time to study. While this may not seem important to an airman just out of basic training, the same holds true for them as well.

The Weighted Airman Promotion System may be used in determining who gets promoted within the noncommissioned officer ranks, but the ‘clock’ used in four of the six factors begins from the time an airman enters the Air Force. Time in grade and time in service are earned naturally, but decorations and enlisted performance reports are determined by how well someone does their job.

According to the chief of the Enlisted Promotions and Air Force Testing Branch here, there are several things that airmen should focus on to give themselves the best possible chance for promotion.

“Even though an airman first class is not taking a WAPS test for promotion to senior airman, the EPR he or she is having written today will affect his or her overall promotion score tomorrow,” said Chief Master Sgt. Mark Billingsley. “Decorations are earned as well, not handed out automatically, so it is important that airmen take control of their careers early.”

While some decorations may earn points toward WAPS scoring, winning awards such as airman of the quarter or an academic award from the NCO Academy can help strengthen a record over the course of a career.

However, nothing can hinder a career more than lack of preparation, according to Chief Billingsley.

“Taking time to study for the Specialty Knowledge Test and Promotion Fitness Exam is key for promotion to staff through master sergeant,” said Chief Billingsley.

“One of the worse things a troop can do is listen to someone who tells them not to study because ‘no one makes promotion their first time up,’” the chief added. “This is simply not true. Every cycle, in every grade, there are people who make promotion the first time

## 2004 test dates

Following are test administration dates for the 2004 testing cycle:

For promotion to:  
**Senior Master Sergeant** –  
Jan. 10-24

**Master sergeant** –  
Feb. 15 - March 31

**Technical sergeant** –  
Feb. 15 - March 31

**Staff Sergeant** –  
May 1-31

eligible. They do it by studying and really preparing for the test. And of course, if they don’t quite make it the first time they’ll have a good foundation of knowledge to build on for the next testing cycle, which will come very quickly. Either way they’ll have a leg up on the competition.

*(Editor’s note: This story is the first in a two-part series concerning enlisted promotions. Check the next edition of the Gateway for the conclusion.)*

# TSP open season runs through Dec.

Civilian and military employees can sign up for, or change, their Thrift Savings Plan contribution amounts during the "open season" which runs through Dec. 31.

"TSP is an easy, long-term retirement savings plan, that everyone should consider," said Senior Master Sgt. Felipe Ortiz, superintendent of the Air Force Personnel Center's contact center. "Current account holders might be interested, too, in transferring money from one fund to another — the TSP folks are set up to handle that.

"Either way, it's a great supplement to military and civilian retirement plans," Ortiz said. "It's important to note that TSP is not limited to investing in stocks. People can choose safer government securities as well."

Open season applies only to regular

contributions. It does not include catch-up contributions, as they are not tied to open seasons, said Janet Thomas of AFPC's civilian benefits and entitlements service team.

The program offers investors the chance for lower taxes each year they contribute while not having to pay taxes on earnings until they reach retirement.

"Eligible employees can take out loans and make in-service withdrawals from their TSP accounts," Thomas said. "And you can keep your account, even if you leave military or federal service."

Investment money is deposited directly from each paycheck "so you never have to think about it," Ortiz said. "That makes it easy to pay yourself first while only investing what you deem appropriate."

The five funds are: the Government Securities Investment (G) Fund; the Common Stock Index Investment (C) Fund; the Fixed Income Index Investment (F) Fund; the Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment (S) Fund; and the International Stock Index Investment (I) Fund.

"As with any individual retirement account, the sooner you begin contributing, the better," said Thomas.

Contribution elections or changes made between now and Dec. 13 will take effect Dec. 14, for both military and civilian personnel. Changes made after Dec. 14 will become effective at the beginning of the pay period following the pay period in which the election is made for civilians and the following month for military. (*Courtesy of Air Force Print News Service*)

## Specifics of the program for military and civilian personnel

### Military:

— Airmen can continue to contribute up to 8 percent of their base pay through November. Beginning Dec. 1, they may increase their contribution to 9 percent as long as the annual total of tax-deferred investment does not exceed \$12,000 for 2003. Airmen also can invest all or part of their bonuses or special pay.

— Those serving in tax-free combat zones are allowed up to \$40,000 in annual contributions. — Airmen can enroll through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Web site at <http://www.dfas.mil/emss/>. They can also enroll by filling out a form TSP-U-1 at local military personnel flights, finance offices and family support centers.

— How an employee chooses to invest money among the five funds can be made by calling the TSP automated ThriftLine at (504) 255-8777 or on the TSP Web site at <http://www.tsp.gov/>. For general TSP questions, call the AFPC Contact Center at DSN 665-5000 or (866) 229-7074.

— Specific TSP information is available for airmen at [http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/mpf/TSP/thrift\\_savings\\_plan.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/mpf/TSP/thrift_savings_plan.htm).

### Civilians:

Contribution limits are based on which retirement system an employee has. For the current open season, the following contribution rates apply:

— Federal Employees' Retirement System employees may contribute up to 14 percent of basic pay each pay period. Once eligible, the government provides matching funds of up to 4 percent as well as an automatic 1 percent each pay period, whether the employee contributes or not, mak-

ing the government's contribution 5 percent.

— Employees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System may contribute up to 9 percent of basic pay but do not receive any matching contributions or the automatic 1 percent.

— The percentage FERS and CSRS employees may contribute will increase by one point each year through 2004, when they will be restricted only by the Internal Revenue Code's annual limit, \$12,000 in 2003 and \$13,000 in 2004, said Thomas.

— Specific information is available for civilian employees from the Thrift Savings Web site at <http://www.tsp.gov/> or the BEST home page at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST/menu.htm>.

— All Air Force civilian employees can make their TSP contribution elections or changes through the BEST automated phone system at (800) 997-2378, or commercial 527-2378 in San Antonio. They can also use the Employee Benefits Information System Web application at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST\\_GRB/EBIS.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST_GRB/EBIS.htm). Hearing impaired employees can contact BEST by calling TDD (800) 382-0893 or commercial 565-2276. Overseas employees enter the AT&T direct-access number for the country they are calling from and then enter (800) 997-2378. AT&T access instructions can be obtained from [http://www.att.com/business\\_traveler/guides\\_and\\_access/dialing\\_instr.html#outside](http://www.att.com/business_traveler/guides_and_access/dialing_instr.html#outside). Counselors are available weekdays 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the central time zone.

— How an employee chooses to invest their money among the five funds are made by calling the TSP automated ThriftLine at (504) 255-8777 or on the TSP Web site at <http://www.tsp.gov/>.





Photos By Master Sgt. Chris Hernandez

## KMC cup action

*(Left) Ashley Polhemus, Rhein-Main midfielder, prepares to pass the ball. (Above) Adam Swingle (top) and Coco Ibarra (lower) attempt to head a crossing pass. The Rhein-Main 13-15 year old team took fourth place out of ten teams at the Kaiserslautern Military Community Cup last week at Kapaun Air Station. Swingle led the Rhein-Main team in scoring with 13 goals.*

## Sports Briefs

### Youth Sports

- The Bantam soccer team plays at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at the field across from the auto skills center.
- The Junior soccer team plays at 11 a.m. Saturday at the field across from the auto skills center.
- The Bantam flag football team plays a game at 1 p.m. Saturday at the field across from the auto skills center.
- The 13 - 15 year old youth soccer team plays Hanau at 1 p.m. Saturday at the field next to the base fitness center.

### Intramural Bowling

The following are the team standings for the Monday night intramural bowling league:

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1) Trouble Makers    | 6) Clinic Crushers |
| 2) Still Runnin Late | 7) DOH!            |
| 3) Postage Due       | 8) Cats & Dogs     |
| 4) Ramp Rats         | 9) 469th ABG/Comm  |
| 5) School Time       |                    |

John Cottle has the season's highest scratch game total for men with a 225, and Denise Thacker has the highest women's scratch game score with 168.

## Varsity Basketball Schedule

Following is the season schedule for the Rhein-Main Rockets Varsity Basketball Team:

- Nov. 1, home vs. Kaiserslautern
  - Nov. 8, home vs. Wiesbaden
  - Nov. 15, home vs. SHAPE
  - Nov. 22, home vs. Hanau
  - Nov. 27 - 30, 4th Annual Thanksgiving Day Tournament at Wiesbaden
  - Dec. 6, away vs. Darmstadt
  - Dec. 13 away vs. Mannheim
  - Dec. 18 - 21, at Kaiserslautern Christmas Classic
  - Jan. 10, away vs. Giessen
  - Jan. 16 - 19, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Tournament at Heidelberg
- All regular season games are scheduled to tip off at 3 p.m.



Photo By Staff Sgt. Matt Summers

## These boots are made for walking

*Shoppers carry equipment away from the Rhein-Main Free-for-All property transfer Monday at Bldg. 341. Military units from the surrounding area hauled off more than 1,100 line items in a two hour span. The equipment was property no longer needed by Rhein-Main units.*

# One-stop shopping at info, job fair

**By Staff Sgt. Matt Summers**  
Public Affairs

Looking for a job? Have some spare time to volunteer? Have no idea what the community spouses club is all about?

Even if you answered no to all these questions, there's still something you would like to find out about the Rhein-Main community or employment in the surrounding area.

The Rhein-Main 2003 Community Information and Job Fair, set for 10:30 a.m.

to 1 p.m. in the base chapel fellowship hall, is just the place to find answers to almost any question concerning Rhein-Main.

More than 20 organizations will be represented, both those looking for employees and volunteers. Ranging from the credit union to the consulate, organizations and businesses from surrounding military areas will be present.

The attendance of organizations from other areas is key considering the continued drawdown of Rhein-Main. In the near future, Rhein-Main community members

looking for employment may have to seek opportunities in other military communities.

Although the entire community is invited, the information and job fair is aimed towards military family members. Newcomer's orientations are oftentimes the first and last chance spouses have to receive information concerning the entire community and what opportunities are available.

The information and job fair hopes to change that, according to Greg Cowan, 469th Air Base Group Family Support Center.

## Christmas-care packages for downrange troops

The Halvorsen-Turner School at Rhein-Main has more than 15 students and staff members with family members currently deployed. The school will be making Christmas Care Packages to send to these troops downrange. Donations are needed to make this effort a success.

The items should be brought to the school office no later than Nov. 14. Following is a list of recommended items:

- phone cards, wipes and soap
- powdered drinks (Tang, Crystal Light, etc.), and socks
- razors, hand cream, Starkist "Lunch to Go" and note cards
- Beef Jerky, Jolly Ranchers, and reading material
- small V-8 cans, popcorn and trail mix
- nuts (in cans), Ramen noodles and toothpaste

- toilet tissue, hard candy/mints and microwavable grits
- fruit snacks and cookies (in cans - especially home made)
- Christmas items (CD's, potpourri, simple decorations/snacks that will not crush or break)
- peanut butter crackers (snack packs)
- microwaveable individual meals and instant oatmeal packets

### PLEASE DO NOT BRING:

- liquids, things that will melt (no chocolate)
  - glass or breakables
  - plastic bagged junk food or any snack that will crush
- Anyone who has questions should call 330- 7561.

## Restaurant Trip

The family center takes a trip to the Alt Sprendlingen restaurant today from 5:30 - 9 p.m. Get to know the neighborhood and learn more about different cultures, while enjoying a night of great eating.

Children are welcome, but free child care is available. Stop by room 30 in Bldg. 347 or call 330/699-7992 to sign up.

## Community Job Fair

The Rhein-Main Family Support Center holds a Community Information and Job Fair Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the base chapel.

This is an opportunity to meet with potential employers, discover volunteer opportunities and learn more about the Rhein-Main Community.

For more information call 330-7992.

## Halloween Bowling

A cosmic Halloween party takes place at the Rocket Bowling Center Saturday at 5 p.m. Participants can come and bowl in their favorite Halloween costumes. Door prizes will be given out.

## SAC Meeting

A School Advisory Council meeting takes place Thursday at 4 p.m. in the H. H. Arnold High School Media Center.

## Troops to Teachers

A Troops to Teachers briefing takes place Thursday at 2 p.m. at the Rhein-Main Education Center in Bldg. 347, room 249.

Marti Readell will be speaking on the process of using Air Force skills in classrooms.

For more information call 330-7484.

## Halloween Party

A Halloween Party takes place at the youth center Thursday from 5 - 7 p.m. Activities will include: a costume contest, carnival games, face painting, pumpkin carving and painting, popcorn hands, Halloween photos and Shonna the clown.

## Haunted House

The teen center holds a haunted house

Thursday from 6 - 9 p.m. The Rhein-Main Keystone Club is sponsoring the event.

## Help Wanted

The Family Support Center needs parent leaders for Time for Tots.

Time for Tots is a parent-led play group that meets in Gateway Gardens. Groups can meet in the morning, afternoon or evening at a set time each week.

For more information call 330/699-7992.

## Volunteer

The Rhein-Main Post Office is in need of volunteers for the holiday season. Days and times are flexible.

Anyone interested should contact Sgt. Will Smith or Mrs. Cooks at 330-6384.

## Thrift Shop

Interested in making a Halloween costume or sewing for this year's Christmas Pageant? Then come to the Rhein-Main Thrift Shop where one can find an ample array of different fabrics.

The thrift shop hours are as follows: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; noon - 6 p.m. the 2nd Thursday of every month and 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. the last Saturday of the month.

For more information call 330-7095.

## Karaoke

The Rocket Sports Lounge has karaoke every Friday beginning at 8:30 p.m. Come and sing along with Rob and Patty.

## Air Force Sergeants Association

The Rhein-Main chapter of the Air Force Sergeant's Association meets the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 a.m. at the Zeppelinhaus.

For more information call 330-8499.

## Top IV

The 469th Air Base Group Top IV meets at 7:30 a.m. the first Thursday of every month at the Zeppelinhaus.

Technical sergeants, master sergeants, senior master sergeants and chief master sergeants are welcome.

## Movies Rhein-Main

**Tonight** - "Secondhand Lions," (PG), 7 p.m.

**Saturday** - "Freaky Friday," (PG), 5 p.m., and "Uptown Girls," (PG-13), 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday** - "Bend It Like Beckham," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

**Wednesday** - "Mystic River," (R), 7 p.m.

**Oct. 31** - "The Rundown," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

**Nov. 1** - "Spy Kids 3-D Game Over," (PG), 5 p.m., and "Grind," (PG-13), 7:30 p.m.

**Nov. 2** - "Marci X," (R), 7 p.m.

**Nov. 5** - "Runaway Jury," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

Movies and times are subject to change.

Movie schedules for local communities can be found at  
[www.aafes.com/ems/default.asp](http://www.aafes.com/ems/default.asp)

For more information call Master Sgt. Rahim Saafir at 330-7448.

## Computer Classes

"Computers of the Workplace," a free, basic computer skills class, takes place Nov. 3, 5 and 7 from 6 - 9 p.m. at Our House.

Call the family support center at 330/699-7992 to learn more or to sign up.

Child care is available for participants upon request.

## Testing Sessions

The education center now has testing sessions at 8:30 a.m. every Tuesday. This includes AWC, ACSC, SOS, DANTES and distance education exams.

Testing is by appointment only. For more information and to schedule call 330-7484.

## Transition Assistance

The family support center offers Transition Assistance Program Seminars every quarter. The next seminar takes place Nov. 18 - 20 from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Call 330/699-7992 for more information.



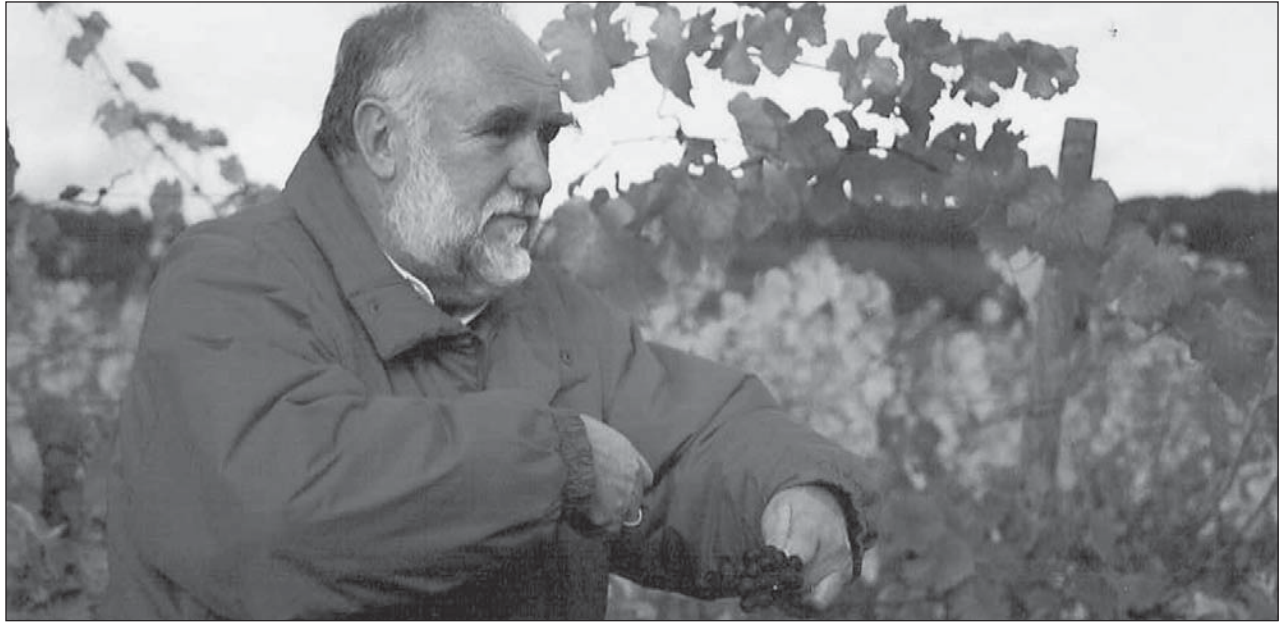


Photo by Staff Sgt. Matt Summers



Photo by Nam K. Lee-Summers

## Light as a feather

*(Above) Eric the Red leads one of his famous USO tours through the vineyards of the Rheingau. (Left) Ruedesheim am Rhein plays host to the 15th Annual Glorious Rheingau Days set for Nov. 1-9. The week-long celebration will feature top quality wines of the region, specialty foods and music, as throughout the week wine estates host spectacular culinary and entertainment events. To get to Ruedesheim from Rhein-Main, take the A-3 to the A-66 exit for Wiesbaden. Continue on the A-66 for approximately 20 minutes until you reach the city on the banks of the Rhine.*

## Our German Friends...

In each edition of *the Gateway*, the public affairs staff answers questions from the Rhein-Main community concerning the German culture. If you have a question, send an e-mail to [pa@rheinmain.af.mil](mailto:pa@rheinmain.af.mil) or call 330-7805. For this edition:

**Q:** I heard some German friends talk about Federweisser wine. What type of wine is this and where can I try some?

**A:** Federweisser (pronounced fay-der-vice-er) is a sweet, frothy, partially-fermented white grape beverage popular at festivities to mark the end of the grape harvest in several parts of Germany. Some people describe it as "not quite wine, yet a little more potent than juice."

Federweisser means "feather white" and is used to describe the newly fermenting harvest wine which has some residual sugar and a lot of carbonic acid fuzz. While it goes down smooth, people must remain aware of the fact that it is an alcoholic beverage.

Several wine regions in Germany celebrate the end of the

harvest with Federweisser celebrations. One of the closest to Rhein-Main is in the Rheingau region with its unofficial headquarters at Ruedesheim.

The Rheingau consists of a stretched-out succession of vineyards on the southern slopes of the Rheingau Mountains between Mainz, where the Rhine makes a 90-degree turn in an easterly direction, to Rudesheim, where it changes direction again, heading north towards Koblenz.

This south-facing slope, around 30 kilometers long, provided the best possible conditions for growing vines at this latitude. There is a multitude of good to excellent vineyard sites, which at one time established the legendary reputation of German Riesling wines.

Many of the most famous vineyard locations are found on the gentle slopes close to the Rhine. This is a result of the fact that there is an availability of water, as well as an absence of wind closer to the river.

Going up to the higher locations on the slope, the best vineyards are to be found where they are protected from the wind, or where they are located directly next to one of the small tributaries.